



# NOW NEWS

VOLUME 22

NUMBER 2

JUNE 1984

## President's message

Fellow members of N.O.W.

May I express my thanks to all for your honoring/en-trusting the writer with the N.O.W. presidency. Personally, I'm looking forward to a very active period, the feature of which will encompass our Silver Anniversary convention scheduled for May 25 & 26, 1985, at the Appleton Paper Valley Hotel. Planning is already underway under the able direction of Bob Van Ryzin, general chairman.

Your complete Board of Governors is listed elsewhere in this issue. New members include Bob Van Ryzin, Randy Miller, Nancy Wilson, and Dave Hunsicker. Gene Johnson & Mike Tramte will continue as editor &



Secretary/Treasurer, respectively. V.P. Carol Janney will work towards developing the Wis. club representative program. Those clubs that have not as yet appointed a rep are urged to follow thru and submit the rep's name to Carol as soon as possible. Harry Collins pledges his continued energetic efforts towards membership development. Hopefully, N.O.W. will

have a display at all of your club shows promoting membership efforts; we ask your cooperation. Board member Bob Van Ryzin, as indicated above, is general chairman of the 1985 convention. The writer, at this time, is investigating the possibility of a Wisconsin oriented auction as an adjunct to the Silver Anniversary convention. I'm pleased to report that our initial board meeting evidenced a true spirit of cooperation, open discussion, and dedication to the aims of N.O.W.

As President, the writer would encourage open lines of communication so that we all may promote the hobby in Wisconsin. I would encourage your letters to my attention with YOUR thoughts and ideas as to what the board can do, what the clubs can do, and what individuals can do in the best interests of N.O.W. and the hobby. May we all look forward, together, to an interesting period in NOW history.

Regards,

*R C KRAET*

### NOW NOTES

The 1984 Green Bay NOW Show was memorable in many ways, representing some of the new, mixed in with some of the treasured old. Nicolet member Hank Thoele put

out a dandy Brown County booklet listing tokens and paper used in and around Green Bay, Fred Borgman won the \$100 prize for the top story in NOW News in 1983 and the Prieve educational award went to Chet Krause for his non-competitive exhibit of paper money and stock certificates. One of Chet's stock certificates brought out the best story of the weekend. It seems that an elderly lady from Algoma identified Chet's rare note as identical to a large stack that she had once owned. When asked what had happened to the certificates, the lady said the rare pieces had been used in the family outdoor toilet. Wag Joe Jones then surmised that the entire supply had been "wiped out".

At the awards breakfast, competitive exhibit awards were presented to Nancy Wilson, (1st), Harold Helm, and Frank Rucinski. Awards of appreciation were presented to general chairman Tom Fruitt, and Virgil Jackson. Chet Krause's annual "Chet Chat" was lively and informative.

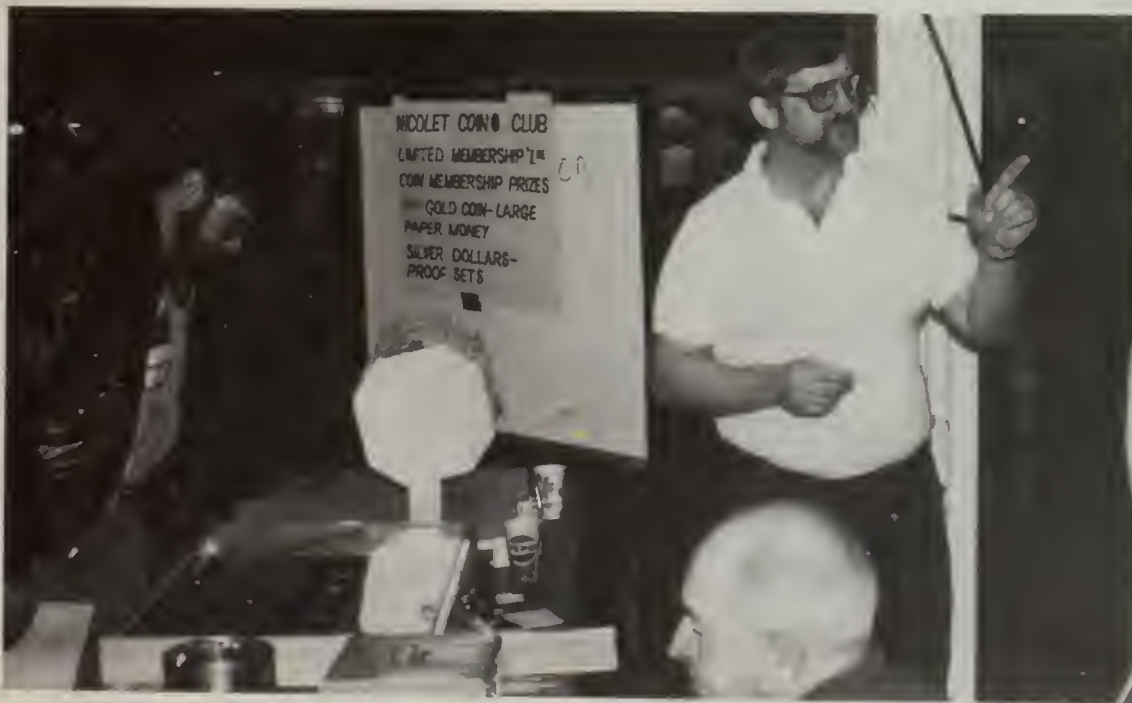
The evening outing of NOW friends was marred by a communication breakdown, 11 persons ended up at the Rock Garden restaurant, and another 15 at the Midway Motel restaurant. However, the food was excellent at both places, and a fine time was had by all.



# GREEN BAY N.O.W.



Overview of the Green Bay NOW 1984 bourse. Krause Publications hospitality room at upper right at back of bourse.



Making bucks for the Nicolet Club is supersalesman Don England. Down front is bookkeeper Gordy LaPlant.



The NOW Award of Merit for Virgil Jackson is accepted by Cliff Manthe. President Harold Helm makes the presentation at the NOW awards breakfast.



A relaxed Chet Krause updates the NOW breakfast crowd on the state of the hobby.

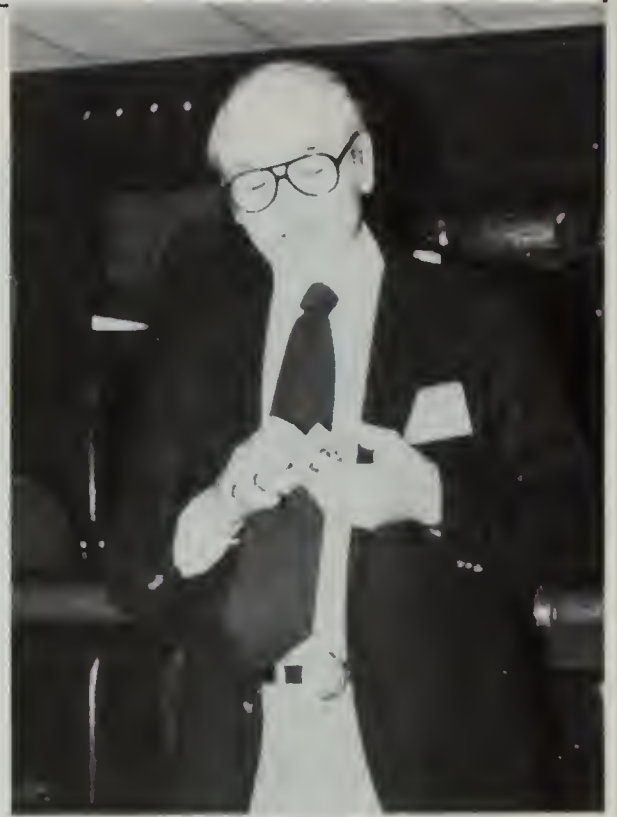


Exhibit chairman Bill Barkem "breaks the news" to winning exhibitors. (NOW awards breakfast).





Conversations at the NOW awards breakfast, L to R, Nancy Wilson, Rene Johnson, Ginny Kraft, Chet Cause and Harold Helm.



Something scarce or rare? Fred Borgman, Harry Collins and John Wilson look it over. (NOW awards breakfast).



Kurt Krueger shows his writers award to, (L to R), Bob Kraft, Tom Fruit, Gordon and Clara Gill. (NOW awards breakfast).

YOUR NOW BOARD

AT WORK



Green Bay NOW 1984 general chairman, Tom Fruit.

The 1984 Green Bay NOW Show is a matter of record. Well run, well attended, and a credit to Tom Fruit and the Nicolet Coin Club. Blessed with excellent coin show weather, (cold, overcast with occasional rain showers), attendance was strong, and tho the usual high percentage of business transacted was between dealers, shoe string dealers and investors, there seems to be a minor ground swell of interest that may point up better times for the hobby. (This was to be later confirmed at CSNS Milwaukee).

There are so many quality people in the Nicolet Club that successfull coin shows in Green Bay seem the norm, belying the tremendous amount of organizational effort and planning involved. Thanks Nicolet, for a fine Green Bay NOW 1984 show!

Meeting at the Brown County Arena, the NOW board of governors further discussed the development of the club representative program. Vice-president Carol Janne will provide leadership in developing and defining this NOW/local club program.

In other action, it was announced that board member Bob Van Ryzin will be general chairman of the 1985 Appleton NOW Show, a feeler has been put out by the Sheboygan Coin Club to host a 1988 NOW Show, and all appears well for the 1987 show to be held in Eau Claire.

Final action on the proposed Racine/SSCC co-hosting of the 1988 NOW Show will be handled at the fall interclub meeting at MNS/Milwaukee Sept. 29th.

NOW members were saddened by the death of veteran collector, Wilbert "Willie" Schenk of Merrill. A honorary life member of the Wisconsin Valley Coin Club, Schenk was a grassroots collector out of the 1950's era who helped found the Wausau club. He will be sorely missed. Willie was 67 years of age.



# NOW ELECTION

Green Bay NOW 1984 was an election year, with a new president, vice-president and six board members taking new posts of responsibilities. Robert Kraft of Madison was elected president, Carol Janney of Richland Center, vice-president, and Gordon Gill of Madison, and Monte Sherwin of Black River Falls were returned to board of governors positions. Elected to the other two board positions were Nancy Wilson of Milwaukee, and Randy Miller of Oshkosh.

New President Bob Kraft then appointed Robert Van Ryzin of Oshkosh to fill the post vacated by new vice president Carol Janney, and David Hunsicker of West Bend to fill the term of Len Roosmalen who resigned from the board. The officers and appointments became in force at the close of the Green Bay NOW Show.

## BROWN COUNTY BOOKLET

### AVAILABLE

Green Bay's Hank Thoele published a dandy 72 page souvenir booklet for the 1984 NOW show. Listed are Brown County tokens, paper

money, medals and badges, complete with historys, information, and lots and lots of interesting facts from way back when.

Copies can be had from Hank at \$3 each. His address is: P.O. Box 152, Green Bay, WI 54305.

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## VIRGIL JACKSON HONORED

Long time NOW governor Virgil Jackson was awarded the NOW Certificate of Honor at the 1984 awards breakfast at the Midway Motor Lodge. Jackson, who has served 16 years as a state governor is one of the 1960 founding members of NOW. Nationally recognized as an exhibitor of paper money errors, Virgil teamed with his wife Daisy, to dominate Wisconsin exhibiting in the early 1960's. The NOW award recognizes the contributions of Virgil as both an exhibitor and NOW officer.

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## NOW EXHIBITS

The number of exhibitors at the 1984 NOW show was small, reflecting state and national trends, tho the quality of the exhibits was excellent. Chet Krause came thru with a dozen cases of beautiful paper material to supplement the competitive displays.

## FRIENDS OF NOW

As long as NOW members can remember, Krause Publications has supported our annual conventions, providing planning, advertising, personal support, hospitality rooms, and other behind the scenes help. Many numismatic changes have occurred since the inception of NOW in 1960, one thing has not changed, the strength lent to our state organization by Krause Publications.

### ATTENTION LOCAL CLUBS

It has been the policy of NOW since 1975 to help local coin clubs set annual show dates to avoid conflict with other area shows. The success of this program depends on the co-operation of the local clubs. Now is the time to set your 1985 spring show dates!

Harry Collins  
Local show co-ordinator

### MNS BUYS CASES

At the April meeting of the Milwaukee Numismatic Society the purchase of 100 coin display cases was finalized. The cost was \$31.50 each, and the cases will be stored at Badger Exposition. In other business the club allotted \$250.00 for the Boy Scout Merit Badge Clinic in which 100 boys are expected to participate.

## ANA SUMMER SEMINAR

The popular summer seminar in Colorado Springs, conducted by A.N.A., will feature a new course, "Computers and the Collector - A 'Hands-On' Experience". The course will introduce students to the various software programs.

Other courses at the July 8-14 seminar will include "All About Coins", the "Charles Wolfe Course on Ancient Coins", "Coin Photography", "Detection of Counterfeit and Sltered Coins", "A Study of Numismatic Literature", and two "Coin Grading" courses -- one for beginners and the other for advanced students. Total costs will be \$325 for ANA members and \$350 for nonmembers, and will include tuition, housing, and meals at the college, and one field trip.

For a seminar brochure and application form, write or call Judy Stebenne, Seminar Coordinator, P.O. Box 2366, Colorado Springs, CO 80901 Tel: 303---632-2646.

### BERTSCHY HONORED

Del Bertschy, who celebrated his 88th birthday April 21st was presented a birthday cake and card from fellow MNS members. Del will serve as honorary chairman of the 50th anniversary fall show.





**Kurt R. Krueger  
IS BUYING  
Collections,  
Estates,  
Hoards,  
& Singles  
of**

**United States Coins,  
Foreign Coins &  
Currency,  
National Currency,  
Type Notes,  
Tokens, Medals  
and Oddments.**

"You can capitalize on my diversified knowledge of numismatics. I am in constant need of material to supply the demand of my large clientele. I am willing to travel anywhere to view your holdings, if warranted. Whether you have a single item or a six-figure collection, I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss a confidential transaction with you."

## **WHY CONTACT ME?**

**Get Top Dollar For Your Material and  
Get A Piece of the Kurt R. Krueger PIE.**

### **PROFESSIONALISM — INTEGRITY — EXPERIENCE**

**PROFESSIONALISM:** Kurt R. Krueger is a full-time highly professional numismatist; well known for his high ethical standards in his field. Kurt is a member of the Professional Numismatist Guild. As a member of the PNG, Kurt is required to subscribe to a rigid code of ethics and pass the strict financial requirements. As a Life Member of the American Numismatic Association, Kurt takes an active interest in the organization. He is currently the youngest member on the Board of Governors.

**INTEGRITY:** Because of Kurt's firm adherence to a rigid code of business ethics and moral values, you receive an honest evaluation and a fair price for your holdings. Kurt will not merely "cherry-pick" your collection... he will purchase your material intact... lock, stock and barrel.

**EXPERIENCE:** In 1956, Kurt was a budding numismatist. His intense desire for knowledge for the past 25 years has given Kurt a keen insight into United States numismatics. As an authority on foreign coin and currency markets, Kurt is a contributing editor to several major world numismatic catalogues.

Attending coin conventions and auctions, Kurt is constantly meeting with his numismatic clientele. This encounter with people in all parts of the United States gives him a perception of the market which few enjoy.

There you have it!! **PROFESSIONALISM, INTEGRITY and EXPERIENCE!** The three essential ingredients of a highly respected numismatist. Over the years, as you built and enjoyed your collection, you put forth much time and effort, along with a substantial investment. Now, as you consider the sale of your holdings, your wisest investment could very well be a telephone call or a letter to Kurt R. Krueger... a name synonymous with numismatics!



*Kurt R. Krueger*  
For Discriminating Collectors

**160 N. Washington Street  
Iola, Wisconsin 54945  
(715) 445-3845**





### A RARE MEXICAN TOKEN?

By Craig Raebel WNW

Over the years in the numismatic hobby, and in handling many coins from estates and purchased collections, I've handled many odds and ends of tokens. Recently however, a token that is so different turned up that I feel it is worthwhile telling fellow collectors about. This very unusual token is struck on a Mexican 2 peso gold coin! I know that it is a Mexican 2 peso gold coin because it has the reeded edge of that coin, as well as the exact weight of the Mexican coin at 1.666 grams. While I do not collect tokens as such, the piece was so unusual and interesting that I picked it up. The obverse has the crudely struck initials AK, from what appears to be a non professionally prepared die. The reverse is plain. There is no clue to where the token was struck or why, with my guess being that the 22k gold token was perhaps used for a bullion trade piece of

some sort. A second guess would be that the token is some kind of love piece or special occasion token for the person with the initial AK. Perhaps the answer lies out among our NOW membership. If you have ever seen this token or one similar, would you please drop me a line? Research is the meat of numismatics, and sure adds a lot of enjoyment to the hobby. If you can help, my address is 1911 Kings Court, Wausau 54401.



New NOW Vice president is Carol Janney, of Richland Center, Wisconsin. Local clubs will be hearing from Carol concerning the NOW/local club representative program.

START SOME YOUNGSTER INTO THE NUMISMATIC HOBBY TODAY !!!!!



# Experienced!

## ITEM:

**Numismatic News convinces the GSA to properly grade Carson City dollars sold from the government's hoard (scratched, nicked and tarnished specimens were to be sold as uncirculated!)**

## ITEM:

**Numismatic News helps reverse the Treasury's decision to omit silver from the Ike dollar (we now enjoy 40% silver Ikes!)**

## ITEM:

**Numismatic News successfully lobbies against middle-man profits in the Olympic coin programs.**

\* \* \*

Been on the block for 32 years. Saw some questionable hobby programs come down from Washington in that time. Got involved with all of them. Knew from experience what to do — how to go about changing minds and policies.

Victories for the hobby were sweet. There are more to come. Stick with us. Support us. Now more than ever, we're ready to serve your interests.

# numismatic news



WE SAW YOU AT  
GREEN BAY NOW

Del Bertschy

Up from Milwaukee for the board of governors meeting alone, Louella was under the weather with a bout of arthritis. Del was his usual whirlwind self, gearing up for Central States at Milwaukee, which he says will be his last bourse chairmanship.

Joe Jones

Iolas latest addition to the Wisconsin token collecting fraternity purchased a large cigar box full of misc. tokens. Talk about beginners luck, the cigar box was a rare collectable worth a quarter of the whole purchase price.

Jim & Jeanne Medd

NOW past president Jim and his lovely wife broke away from a housefull of company to come down to the Arena and shake a few hands of some of the long time NOW people.

Len Roosmalen

Resigned his NOW board of governors post because he felt he was shorting the state organization by not being able to attend all meetings. Len will be missed on the board, a quality numismatist and man.

Bill Barkem

Long time Nicolet club worker was the exhibit chairman for the Green Bay NOW 1984. Bill did a nice job at the awards breakfast where the exhibitors were honored.

Fred Borgman

Another Krause/Iola winner, Fred won the Wisconsin Numismatic Writers 1st place award, and the South Shore Coin Clubs \$100.00 prize for the best story in NOW News in 1983. Fred collects foreign coins, but writes about exnumia.

Tillung & Curtis

NOW members were so very pleased to see a bourse table set up by past NOW secretary Jerry Tillung and Mrs. Russ Curtis of Eau Claire. The new company is called the "Eau Claire Coin Co."

Floyd Janney

With wife Carol the new NOW vice-president, what does that make Floyds title? According to Floyd, he is quite "used to" a second billing to the very pretty Mrs. Janney!

Hank Thoele

Big Hank is the latest Wisconsin numismatic author with his dandy souvenir booklet on Brown County oddments. This Green Bay numismatist has really dug up some fine hobby information!



Bill Spencer

Up from Racine, unflappable William is no longer in the custom plastic holder business, much to the extreme pain (billfold type) of Wisconsin collectors.

Mark Ferguson

Showed up with a very lovely lady (no introductions) at the NOW gang get together at the "Rock Garden" restaurant. Very fine taste in both coins and the ladies.

Paul Peters

Dressed up in his Wisconsin National Guard uniform, Paul took time out from weekend drill to look over the coins.

OSHKOSH SETS DATE

Late word on a late 1984 coin show, the Oshkosh Coin Club will hold a fall convention November 4th, 1984 at the Holiday Inn at 9th and Highway 41 in Oshkosh. The site is the same as used by the successful Numismatic Research Society show in February of this year. The new site should go a long way toward re-establishing Oshkosh as a local show city after a cancellation and several shows at poor locations. Bourse information can be obtained from club Secretary, Irene Blanchette, 1356 Winnebago Ave., Oshkosh 54901.



Counting the election ballots. (L to R) Harold Helm, Dick Anderson, (obscured), Fred Borgmann, Mike Tramte, Gerald Johnson.

## BEHAVIORAL TOKENS

By Gerald Johnson - WNW

While it is an acknowledged hobby truism that tokens have been used in a multitude of inane and bizarre purposes, some token applications have been highly meaningful sociologically. Consider for instance, the gate tokens of the walled cities of Europe in the 16th century, which are a good example of the acceptance of tokens where coined money was not appropriate. These tokens were used when arriving after dark at the city gates, and only the token bearer was admitted, thus preventing infiltrators of a hostile nature from entering therein.

In today's society, a significant token usage has come into widespread use in our nations mental hospitals, the behavioral token, part of the "Token Economy" system used as a pervasive control device in mental patients lives. Mental illness is now, and has always been a social judgment, in early times, labeled witchcraft and devil possession, the degree was often determined by the particular culture and its chronologic development as a society. In some early north American cultures the insane were actually revered and protected as "touched by the Gods". As

man's understanding grew, and the behavior studies of Krapelein in the early 1900s defined the mental disorders institutions changed. Drugs replaced restraints and patients rights were expanded. In the early 1960s several New York mental hospitals began an experiment in "operant conditioning" using the psychological principle of "law of effect". This

simple principle states that acts with favorable consequences are repeated, while acts with unfavorable consequences (punishment) are not repeated. In the years that followed a "token economy" was developed which rewarded patients for behaving in a manner acceptable to hospital management. Among the problem areas addressed by the token system were dining room behavior, promptness in arising for morning meals, self help in dressing and response to instruction. Other token rewards could be earned by taking baths, performing housekeeping chores, and minor custodial services. In one institution patients can earn one token for making their beds, four tokens for cleaning up after a patient who cannot control his bodily functions, and up to six tokens for helping wash pots and pans in the hospital kitchen. These tokens were then redeemed in this manner; two tokens were good for



a twenty minute walk around the grounds outside, one token was good for the privilege of watching a movie, other token values were attached to attending church services, and so on, up to twenty tokens good for a visit to the ward psychologist.

In this system both the patient and institutional personnel benefit from the "token economy", the custodial and staff workload is greatly reduced, thus giving more time for personal interaction between patient and staff, while the involved patients feel useful, and consequently reflect this in their attitudes toward necessary rules and regulations. The behavioral control token illustrated has been turning up in coin



26 mm aluminum tokens used to control behavior of mental patients in Wisconsin.

dealer junk boxes for several years now, but only one type has surfaced to date. One variety has been found, some of the pieces are painted blue, probably to represent a multiple of five or ten tokens. (One blue token worth five unpainted tokens).

Time marches on, and mankind's understanding of its being increases, and the interesting parallel between legal tender coinage and tokenry continues into the 1980s. With each passing year the non-intrinsic valued fiat coinage of our society more and more resembles the tokens so often distained by the puristic proof set and uncirculated coin collectors of our experience. Under examination by today's standards there is really little difference between the behavioral tokens and our national work ethic reward type coinage.



YA SAY you would like to enjoy your numismatic hobby more? Get involved in your local coin club!

OCONOMOWOC  
CENTENNIAL MEDAL

By Harry Collins WNW

Early in the year of 1975, while living in the Milwaukee area, I was contacted by a member of the Cooney Numismatists, Ltd. of Oconomowoc, (of which I am a charter member), asking for some help in the making of a medal for the centennial of Oconomowoc.

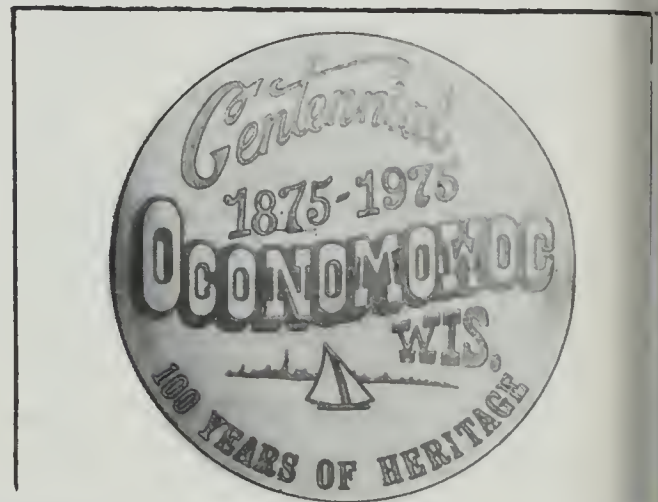
Oconomowoc was chartered as a city April 13, 1875, and the Centennial committee headed by Charles Herro was planning to celebrate. Items in the planning stages were stationary, T-shirts, sweat-shirts, a commemorative booklet and other items, as well as plenty of events. Cecil Leonard was named administrator of the centennial programs.

In the February 13, 1975 issue of the Oconomowoc Enterprise, an article announced the open competition to design an emblem for use on buttons, placemats, posters, and other items. The winning design was to receive \$25. On March 3rd, 1975, the winning design was announced. Paul Goetzke of 208 Elm St. was the winner from the 32 designs entered.

Armed with the logo design and the desire to make a medal, with eventual sales hopefully making a profit to provide further centennial

promotions, I got into the act to help.

The O.C.C. (Oconomowoc Centennial Commission) had little or no knowledge of the when/where/why concerning medals, as an article appearing in the Enterprise on May 22, 1975 referred to the medals as "coins" and that the "Cooney Numismatists" were supervising the minting, and had helped design the "coins". Also the



Reverse of the Oconomowoc medal.

article stated that two types of "coins" were to be minted. One of a mixture of bronze, nickel, and silver and the other will be of .999 fine (pure) silver. Also, the May article stated that the Cooney Numismatists expected the "coins" to be available in approximately two weeks.

I had contacted Wendell's in Minneapolis, MN., for pricing structures for dies, medals, and other incidental prices, to advise



the O.C.C. as to costs and resale prices. Quantities decided upon were 500 Golden Bronze, 500 Nickel Silver, and 100 .999 Fine Silver.

With first hand knowledge of the making of the medals, I responded with a letter to the editor of the Enterprise making reference to the fact that the coin was a medal, that there was no assurance of two week delivery, and the figures were 500, 500, and only 50 of the .999 Silver. Also noted was a nice Wisconsin shaped plastic holder to house a three coin set. This letter appeared in the May 29, '75 issue. On June 5, '75 a reply was printed from the Cooney Numismatists wishing to clarify a statement in reference to the local club wishing to stay clear of the medal because of costs for engraving and minting, which the O.C.C. paid for anyway.



Obverse design of the 18 K gold copy of the Oconomowoc medal.

On July 10, 1975 another article in the Enterprise stated that the three different medals had arrived in Oconomowoc and were on sale. Costs were to be \$1, \$2, and \$25 respectively, and a set available for \$28, or a special mounted set at \$35. The last day to order medallions was to be July 19, and after the final minting, the dyes (spelling error) will be destroyed.

Once again an article appeared in the newspaper, this one announcing a special request for a pure gold medallion (referred in the article as a gold coin) on July 17, 1975 with a cut off date for the "gold coins" to be July 19. Also in this article reference was again to the Cooney Numismatists being the supervisor of the minting operation.

The final mintage figures for the medallions, along with a certified letter from Wendell's was:

500 Golden Bronze  
500 Nickel Silver  
100 .999 Fine Silver  
2 18k Gold  
3 .999 Fine Silver after die defacement

As my records indicate, the 500 Golden Bronze were made at .17@, the 500 Nickel Silver were .29@, the 100 .999 Fine Silver after die defacement, but would be of the opinion they were available

at the \$11.45 price. I have records to indicate the 2 18k Gold were originally sold at \$375@, but still have no positive information on the purchase price of the 3 .999 Fine Silver after die defacement, but reliable information states the die defacement medals were sold at \$25.

March	2-3,	Racine
March	3,	Appleton
March	10	
March	17	
March	24,	Sheboygan
March	31	Palm Sunday
April	7	Easter
April	12-14,	Milw. So. Sh.
April	21	
April	25-28,	Central States (Minneapolis)
May	5,	Eau Claire
May	12	Mothers Day
May	19	
May	25-26,	NOW Appleton

The British Royal Mint used hypo sulphite to dull their bright uncirculated coins in 1944 - 1946 to discourage collectors from holding the coins for speculation purposes.

Fred Borgmann of Iola shows "the \$100 smile" as he accepts the South Shore Coin Club award as the writer of the best 1983 story in NOW News. Making the presentation for South Shore is John Wilson of Milwaukee. Borgmann's story on "The Drake Hotel Robbery Medals" was printed by permission in the Numismatist as well, an interesting and pleasant to read story. South Shore Coin Club, the donor of the \$100 award, is rapidly becoming the "new idea" numismatic organization in Wisconsin!



NOW writers need only be willing to tell a story, the readers are here! The Wisconsin Numismatic Writers Association is looking for your story! Join today, dues are \$1.00 to cover postage. Write Harold Helm today!





Dortehea Case receives Honorary Life Membership and plaque at the Wausau Coin Club banquet.



Professor Herman Karkar provided the WVCC banquet program. Karkar encouraged collectors to have 10% of total assets in metal bullion.



Wausau club officers, L to R; Paul Peters, Sec.; George Allefusos, Vice president; Harry Collins, President; Ed Rahn, Treasurer.

# FROM 3¢ TO \$3,000,000

By Jane Bauer - WNWA

By 1956, the Depression had been over for many years but its effects remained in the minds of most parents. Money was appreciated and handled with discretion and care. Pennies were as much a part of the circulating family funds as they were a reward to a young one's good behavior. Each individual coin was respected for what it could purchase for the family.

Robert and Rita Krueger put extra pennies in a bowl for buying postage stamps and envelopes. When it was time to mail a letter, 4 pennies were taken out to cover the costs. It was this bowl of pennies that initiated the career of their young son Kurt.

One afternoon, six year old Kurt decided to take down the bowl of pennies and "respect their value" at closer range. He fingered through the pieces that seemed to him a hundred dollars or more. Three particular coins caught his eye. They were pennies from 1919! Coins created in a time that was challenging to fathom. That, for any six year old, was a LONG time ago.

After spending several more minutes in awe of these bygone era relics, another discovery was made. One coin

was a 1919, one a 1919-S and the other a 1919-D. For some reason these coins were different. They looked the same and meant the same to Kurt in terms of value, but something separated them from being identical.

Although there was very little known about coins in this small community, his grandmother did have a coin book that gave the prices on certain pieces. He learned that the letters after the date of the coins indicated the mint mark or where the coins were made. He memorized with zest the prices quoted on every page.

Robert and Rita knew their son was involved in more than just a passing phase. His interest was sincere and enthusiastic and showed every sign of a maturing passion. They encouraged Kurt to pursue and study as many areas of this new hobby as possible. Within the next two years he came to know coin collecting quite well, the hobby professionally known as numismatics.

One Friday evening while looking through the local paper Kurt noticed an advertisement for a Barber Head coin collection. Although he did not have the money needed to purchase the collection, he talked his father into driving him to Dorchester, Wis. to look at it.



The smell of fried potatoes and side pork scented the air of the bachelor-decorated rooms in the Dorchester residence. The man selling the coins was not out to make a huge profit. The coins were worth \$15 in face value and he was only asking \$18.

The excited look on Kurt's face must have triggered a warm response in his dad as he pulled out a \$20 bill from his pocket to pay for the coins. The drive back to Medford that night was filled with elated chatter over the new purchase. The following weeks were spent mowing lawns and picking golden rods to recompense the \$18 owed his father. It was not a hobby without sacrifice.

Around this time Kurt came to know the local grocer, Ray Frederickson. Ray had also been bitten by the collecting bug and enjoyed talking "money" with his young friend. He recognized the enthusiasm in this neophyte coin collector and allowed Kurt to go through his Indian head cent pieces and retain any duplicate copies.

Les Hirt, the insurance representative who lived down the street also encouraged Kurt's hobbying interests. The more he looked, the more he was able to find people who shared this appreciation for "saving money".

One of his most significant influences was Reverend

Engel who lived in Medford. The Reverend had a cigar box filled with Indian head cents he had been saving. He allowed Kurt to go through and pick out any coins he needed to fill his collection.

The Reverend's daughter, Rhoda Engel, and Rita Krueger attended classes together at the Taylor County Teacher's College. Sometimes at night when there would be a special meeting at the school, Kurt would go along and look through the change box. The box was kept in the freezer for safe keeping.

On one of those evenings Kurt discovered a 1921-D half dollar. It was worth about \$15. Rita loaned her son 50¢ to buy the coin.

Kurt blatantly recalls the time he reaped the benefits of another's misfortune at gambling. Billy Werner was a couple of years older and had a newly purchased roll of Indian cents. He probably didn't have to save as much as Kurt did for the roll but then he lost it as quickly as it came. The boys gambled on the coins for nearly two hours, by which time Billy Werner had lost all his cents. Or so his mother told him.

There were a few boys on the other side of town who were also interested in coin collecting and Kurt came to spend quite a bit of time with them. On Saturdays they

# show schedule

1984



June 23-24 RHINELANDER

Northwoods Stamp & Coin  
Holiday Inn  
Carol L'Herault  
P.O. Box 681  
Rhinelanders 54501

July 28-Aug. 4 DETROIT, MI

ANA 93rd ANNUAL CONVENTION  
COBO Hall/Detroit Plaza  
Florence Schook  
P.O. Box 2014  
Livonia MI 48154

August 19 BARABOO

Baraboo Coin Club  
Elks Club  
Ed Lange  
1015 East St.  
Baraboo 53913

September 9 LACROSSE

La Crosse Coin Club  
Ramada Inn (just off I-90)  
V. Payton  
2804 S. 27th St.  
La Crosse 54601

September 23 FOND DU LAC

Fond du Lac Coin Club  
American Legion Hall  
P.O. Box 952  
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## *Some Thoughts*

Here in the State of Wisconsin, occasionally a veteran collector will donate a numismatic holding to a historical museum with the purpose of propagating the hobby, and leaving the family name engraved in the community thru the museum. At face value, this seems like a good idea, leaving "a mark" in the community where you spent your life, and sharing your numismatic joy with the future generations of interested people, and possibly collectors!

However, local museums and historical societies are usually ill equipped to deal with NUMISMATIC collections, even if the donor sets up elaborate exhibits that are tamper proof. The directors of these institutions often are artifact oriented, and by not being specialized (numismatically knowledgeable) often are most interested in the resale value of the often rare and desirable material. In recent years some of the most famous numismatic museum collections have been broken up and the coins auctioned off even though the collections were earmarked for museum posterity.

Using the information sheet of the Marathon County Historical Society as an indicator, here is what lies ahead for a collection donated to a Wisconsin museum in 1984.

These are quotes from the MCHS newsletter. "There are three ways in which a person might put her or his piece(s) in the care of the Society/Museum by temporary loan: permanent loan: and donation. Receipts are given in all three categories.

Many times an idea for an exhibit is presented. If the owners are willing to have their pieces displayed,

the items are loaned to the museum for the duration of the exhibit, usually between two to six months, thus a temporary loan.

A permanent loan is similar in that the donor retains possession of the item but varies from a temporary loan in that the length of time the museum holds the piece is much longer - usually years. A permanent loan can be used by the donor if the donor feels that she or he might at sometime in the future, want the piece returned, or might not want to have the piece traded, as is possible with a donation. If a piece on permanent loan no longer fits in with the museum's collection policy, it is returned to the owner. Permanent lo-

ans are not encouraged."

So much for the temporary and permanent loan, now for the meat of the newsletter, the "donation".

"The third type of receipt is a gift, and outright donation without stipulations. A gift tendered without limitations means that once it is received, it is a function of the board of directors, to decide its outcome. The piece might be displayed for a short time, an indefinite term or it might never be displayed. It might be used for research, or it might be traded to another museum for a piece more suitable to the collection of the trading museum.

These are all acceptable procedures within the ethics of the museum field and within the legal limitations of its tax-exempt status.

Once an item has been donated to a museum, which holds the item in public trust, often by use of public money, it cannot be returned to private hands except by public auction."

So, at the whim of the museum director, your collection, and your name as donor, can be erased from community history.

Perhaps the "exposure" answer is in self-contained, low value displays of interesting coins, paper money, or tokens, that can be pulled out of storage for National Coin Week and displayed by the museum.

This material would common date, circulated condition material such as the average person is exposed outside the hobby. Then sold or traded the only sadness would be the exposure loss, not the monetary.

---

THANKS - To the many workers that assisted at the show, particular thanks to Bob Kraft, who kindly helped with a number of critical details. So many helped make it a success (a qualified one, at any rate). Goddy Gill, with his help exhibits, (seven cases yet) and the great publicity of the Capital Times; Phil Gaffney, with his excellent management of the security arrangements; Glen Dirree; Bob Kraft again with his fine radio show; Howard Vander Zanden for his help with the reception desk, etc. There were so many helping.

THE SHOW - Disappointing the number of people got through, about 300\* against last year's 600\*. Some claim the \$1 admission was the problem, others the magnificent weather, and yet others the tremendous number of activities in the area. I spend a great deal of time and money on publicity that shouldn't be the problem. But we should make a decision about whether to Sheraton again next year the week, and an admission charge or not.

Madison Newslett



From page 21

would all go down to the local bank and get rolls of coins to search through for special dates. The passerby shoppers gazed with curiosity at the youngsters occupying the sidewalks by emptying penny rolls.

One Saturday he found a 1939-D nickel worth about \$3. Another time he found a \$2.50 gold piece that was by this time out of general circulation.

Except for these few good finds however, the boys decided there must be an easier and more rewarding way to find special coins. Next they began knocking on doors to ask folks if they had any unusual coins. A few short words and some crumpled up eyebrows often told them they came to the wrong place. Generally, though, they were received with patience and understanding and were able to trade for some pretty nice things with these elder citizens.

When Kurt was 15 his family moved to Eagle, Wisconsin. Generally, this is a time when a young numismatist loses an interest in the hobby: there are high school activities to think about, girlfriends and boyfriends and going out to movies. Being new to town though, meant the whirlwind of social activity had not yet hit the Kruegers. Kurt delved into the study of coins with more vigor than ever.

In 1967 Kurt experienced his first taste of notoriety in the business. He pumped gas for a small station in Waukesha, Wisconsin, and began to frequent a barber shop across the street. The barber had for sale a 1909-S cent marked at \$35. Kurt figured this was about \$10 overpriced, but he came back everyday to ponder and muse over buying it.

On the back side of the penny, underneath some surface matter, determined what may turn this \$35 coin into a \$100 coin. He couldn't make it out at first, but if the coin was marked V.D.B. on the back it would indeed be worth the \$35 to buy it. He asked the barber if he could take it out of its case and look at it. The barber agreed and Kurt made his decision to purchase the penny.

When he informed the barber that the coin was indeed the works of a famous coin designer (initials V.D.B.), the barber laughed at the young collector's "vision". After all, he had been collecting for a long time and he would have known were it a special coin. When the surface matter was rubbed off, bearing the initials V.D.B., the barber bowed his hat to the kid who had outsmarted him.

During the next few years, a career in numismatics began to unfold. Kurt began

attending coin shows and established his own club in the Oconomowoc area.

In 1971, he was voted Young Numismatist of the Year by the American Numismatic Association and has, along the way, received national recognition for his coin collecting.

Things have changed a lot over the years. The 1939-D nickel he found as a youngster is now worth about \$8 and the 1921-D half dollar he bought on a borrowed 50¢ is currently valued at around \$150.

Kurt and his wife Kathy now own their own numismatic business in Iola, Wisconsin and cater to the collecting interests of people all over the world. They employ six full-time personnel, including Rhoda Engel, a familiar face from the Medford days.

Kurt still has the three pennies that initiated his career in numismatics. They have taken him from an enthusiast to one of the most well-known men in the business.

At only 33 years of age, Kurt's future in numismatics looks promising. I would venture to guess that the three pennies that have inspired him this far will be with him the rest of the way.

---

If your local club has no news letter, send us your coin club news!

## Couple arrested for coin shop robbery

A Chicago couple was arrested in connection with the armed robbery of Madison Coin and Stamp.

Myron M. Holmes, 33, and Linda M. Gordon, 25, were taken into custody at an east side motel, according to police officials.

Holmes, who police said escaped a year ago from the Oakhill Prison in Fitchburg, was booked into jail on charges of armed robbery, auto theft, a felon in possession of a firearm and escape.

Gordon tentatively has been charged with being party to a crime of armed robbery, harboring a felon, and possession of a dangerous drug with intent to deliver.

The pair are accused of robbing Madison Coin and Stamp, 1123 S. Park St., at gunpoint. They allegedly escaped with more than \$37,000 in coins and cash.

Bob Lee, the owner of the store followed the couple from the store, firing two gunshots, one of them in the air, and another that is believed to have struck snowbank.

All of the items taken in the robbery were recovered, according to police, after a search warrant was obtained for a locker located in a Chicago bus station.



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The objective of Numismatists of Wisconsin shall be to encourage and promote interest in numismatics; to cultivate friendly relations between Wisconsin coin collectors and the state's coin clubs, as well as collectors of other states; and to encourage and assist new collectors and coin clubs. All resources of the organization shall be used to further these objectives.

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